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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/06
 SPONSOR Larranaga LAST UPDATED 2/08/06 HB 331/aHCPAC
 SHORT TITLE Expand Temporary Licensure and Reciprocity SB _____
 ANALYST McSherry

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07	FY08		
	\$0-\$25.0	\$0-\$25.0	Recurring	Counseling and Therapy Prac- tice Board Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

New Mexico Health Policy Commission (NMHPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HCPAC Amendment

The amendments adopted by the House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee remove language which would have required recipients of reciprocal licensure through the New Mexico Board of Counseling and Therapy Practice Board to be one of the following:

- Nationally certified counselor, as determined by the national board of certified counselors;
- Certified clinical mental health counselor or therapist as determined by the national board of certified counselors;
- Clinical member of the American association for marriage and family therapy;
- Registered art therapist, board certified by the art therapy credential board; or
- Alcohol and drug abuse counselor who is a national certified addiction counselor level.

The amendment retains the requirement that, for reciprocity, candidates would be required 5 years of good standing as a licensed professional, and have a masters or doctorate degree in their field of licensure from an accredited institution.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 331, “Expand temporary licensure and reciprocity,” proposes to:

- Extend the temporary license for a period not to exceed six months or for a period of time necessary for the board to ensure that the applicant has met licensure requirements.
- Authorize the recognition of reciprocal/credentials licensing for Professional Counselor and Therapists licensed in another state that the applicant:
 - Is of the same “licensure level” as the reciprocal license
 - Is certified by the same board or association as required for counselors and therapists receiving their first licenses in NM.
 - Has held licensure for 5 years
 - Is in good standing with no disciplinary action pending or brought against the applicant for the previous 5 years.
 - Has a masters or doctoral degree in counseling or a counseling-related field from an accredited institution.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed changes would not have substantial impact, however the Board of Counseling and Therapy Practice may experience some increase in licensing revenues due to the proposed reciprocity amendments. Licensing fees for counseling and therapy practice have a range from \$7.5 to \$25/year. Assuming 100 new licensures, the board would have \$7.5 to \$25.0 thousand in increased revenue; the revenue increase is estimated assuming 0 to 100 new licenses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to RLD, this bill is an executive proposal and would implement the recommendations of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Workforce Group in response to executive order 2004-062.

The NM Health Policy Commission, cites New Mexico’s Behavioral Health Collaborative as reporting the following statistics:

- New Mexico has over 500,000 individuals who have substance abuse/dependence or mental disorders. Each of these individuals has family members that are affected directly or indirectly by their abuse/dependence or disorder.
- Only 19% of the adults needing public sector mental health services are currently being served.
- There are inadequate numbers of licensed practitioners in New Mexico as a whole, but particularly outside Albuquerque and Santa Fe.
- Approximately 25-35 percent of those New Mexicans with substance use and/or mental disorders will need services from the publicly funded system of care.
- 368,721 individuals in New Mexico have some kind of mental disorder. Of these, 70,766 adults have serious mental illness (SMI); 18,594 children/adolescents (ages 9

through 17) have severe emotional disturbance (SED); 242,438 adults have other mental disorders not considered to be SMI; and 36,923 children/adolescents have other mental disorders not considered to be SED.

- Only 58 percent of psychiatrists have New Mexico addresses while 88 percent of psychologists, 91 percent of social workers, 93 percent of substance abuse counselors, and 90 percent of mental health counselors have New Mexico addresses. Additionally, almost four out of five in-state New Mexico psychiatrists have practice addresses in Bernalillo and Santa Fe Counties. Approximately 70 percent of psychologists, 47 percent of social workers, and 53 percent of counselors have practice addresses in these two Counties

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If increased reciprocally-licensed counselors, and additional temporary licenses are granted as a result of this bill, agencies which address mental health issues may be able to recruit counseling professionals more easily.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Additional licenses would result in increased workload.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

According to DOH, behavioral healthcare provider agencies and other employers of New Mexico counselors and therapists will continue to experience barriers in recruiting qualified clinical staff if the bill is enacted.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How many increased applicants for reciprocity are expected by the Counseling and Therapy Practice Board should the proposed amendments go into effect?
2. What is the opinion of the professional associations in regards to the proposed changes?

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